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REPORTAGE ON EVENTS IN IRAN

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KHOMEYNI, BANI-SADR ADDRESS NATION ON NEW YEAR

Khomeyni Speech

LD201324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1110 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Address by Ayatollah Khomeyni on the occasion of the Iranian New Year--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Words indistinct] what I wish to say now is that I hope that in the new year our nation, in the same way that it achieved victory and, thanks to God, about 1 year has passed since the revolution and all the revolutionary structures have been established in suitable form, and the calm which was observed during the elections for the Islamic Consultative Assembly as they informed me was a remarkable calm. [sentence as heard] I should also say that in the same way that the year is renewed there should also be a renewal in individuals and in souls. There are some differences after every revolution. When 35 million people have been released from prison and have been set free, of course, among them there are some indiviiuals who have certain deviations. However, everybody should bear in mind that the victory of our revolution was a revolution which was achieved as the result of Islam and turning toward Islam and of the call of God is great. No one should imagine that certain individuals or groups gained this victory for us. No, it was God almighty who, when he saw people risen in His path, assisted them.

You should not overlook the reason why our enemies decided against a serious confrontation. Why did this happen? If they wished to enter our streets with their planes, their cannons and their tanks and bombard Tehran, you had no way to defend yourselves. Who made them change their minds and created a fear in their hearts that prevented them from carrying out their plas? You did not possess any strength. We had nobody on our side. He who created a fear in their hearts and made us victorious due to their fear was God, the almighty, the all-blessed.

When our people turned toward God and [words indistinct] fear was created in all hearts. This is a divine action and no human being would have been able to accomplish this. Therefore our victory is a victory which has been achieved due to the grave of Islam and due to turning toward the Koran.

After the victory, occasionally one notices certain differences, certain things which are contrary to the teachings of Islam and contrary to the commandments of the most noble prophet. At times, one notices some such things. Our nation knows that although it has achieved victory, our enem es are still not resting. Those who drew vast profits from Iran and from the region are not sitting by idly. They are lying in wait. Their agents, those deviationists who are being inspired by them, are also lying in wait. If we ignore the fact they they are still lying in wait and if we ignore the fact that our enemies are still alert, may God forbid, they might create great trouble for us. Our nation should not be negligent of such issues.

For instance, the first round of the Majles elections which has passed and the second round which will, God willing, be carried out, were calm. As they have reported to me, the elections were held calmly. Now, if some individuals have been defeated in the elections, those who wished to serve but cannot serve in the Majles should not criticze the whole nation. If you have been defeated you should not say that the entire Iranian nation has been wrong. How can a Muslim nation show treachery on a vital issue which was carried out so calmly and so well? A whole nation cannot be treacherous. The people should observe Islamic manners. Just because someone wishes to become a Majles deputy, or one of my friends or someone from my group wishes to become a deputy, and who has not been elected by the nation, they should not pick up their pens and write certain things against the elections as a whole, or attack the foundations of the elections.

If they have some complaints their complaints will be investigated. To create a row will do nothing but open the way for the traitors. If you wish to serve the nation, you can serve the nation in one way in the Majles and outside the Majles you can serve the nation in a different way. Do all the people of Iran go to the Majles? There are only a limited number of people in the Majles.

If there is no ill will and if you really wish to serve now that you have not received a sufficient number of votes, you can serve outside the Majles. You should support the Majles. You should not let it be shown abroad that Iran is a country whose elections were such and such. This is a wrong thing to say. Don't keep repeating this wrong thing. For the sake of God, pay attention. A consultative assembly which is an Islamic consultative assembly and should serve the Iranian nation and should be strong; it should be a central power on which all other powers will depend; just because you have not been made a deputy, if you create a row that the elections have been such and such, this is contrary to Islam. If there are complaints, they will be investigated and the officials who should handle the complaints will do so. However, it is contrary to the teachings of Islam to create a row, to shout and to make wrong criticisms.

Muslims should be one another's brothers. They should serve together. You have freed a country from the claws of numerous forces, from the claws of great forces. Now that you have freed the country, do you wish it to be returned to their hands, because of such words and due to having differences? Is it right that you should constantly raise the issue in newspapers or in the domestic or foreign press that this Majles is not such and such, a Majles which should hold the destiny of a country in its hands and which has come into being in such a calm atmosphere? This is not right and do not insist on something which is not right.

I ask of the Iranian nation that in the second round of elections, when, God willing, it comes about, that they also maintain the same calm. This country belongs to you. You should serve this country and should keep calm. In the same way that with happiness and enthusiasm you went and voted in these elections, you should do the same in the second stage and, God willing, the Majles may be convened. The Majles is the only refuge for the people. The Majles is the power of a nation concentrated in a group of people. All the powers of the nation are concentrated in this group. The Majles is higher than all the positions which exist in the country. Therefore, you should not weaken such an institution. Although you will not be able to weaken the Majles, even saying such things is ugly and is contrary to your interests and contrary to Islam.

In this new year, I beseech God, the almighty, the all-blessed, for the greatness of Islam and the Muslim and noble Islamic nation. I hope that the new year will be a happy and joyful year for our nation and that everything may be renewed, that our character may be renewed, that our actions may be renewed, that everything may be renewed and that Iran may be renewed and that all people may hold each other's hands and build this country.

Another thing that I wish to tell the nation is that in these early days of the new year there are many poor and oppressed people who have not been able to obtain what they or their children wanted. Those who have, should help these people. The foundations which exist should care for the orphans, the poor people, the destitute and the oppressed people, so that, God willing, the new year will be a blissful year for all of us and all Muslims and all of the Islamic community. May God bestow success upon all of you.

Bani-Sadr Speech

LD201418 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1140 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Speech by President of Iran Bani-Sadr on occasion of Iranian New Year--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I wish you mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers and children a happy New Year. This new year, while we have come to grips with vast problems, begins, by the will of God, with hope; hope that we will be able to build a new year--a year of crusade--and endeavor towards greater production. We hope for a year of security and a year of triumph over the remnants of the problems left by the former regime. We hope that we shall be able to play, outside our borders, a leading role for the service of deprived humanity and the world's meek. We hope that we shall be able to come to grips with superpower hegemony and to set the deprived and the meek into motion everywhere, even within the redoubts of the foe--the world overlords and that all segments of our people will understand the significance of this emancipation of mankind and mobilization and will pass through petty squabbles, will relinquish violent and nonviolent clashes over trivial and major issues and will make themselves ready to fulfill their world mission. The momentous revolutionary explosion brought about the by imam's leadership in the world should not be inconsequential. We also hope that in the new year other revolutionary explosions will rebuild the face of the globe. We hope that the ew .ear will be one of struggle against discriminations and shortcomings outside the borders of the country and that the new year, which begins with greenery, will culminate in a lusher and more luxuriant burgeoning of greenery in arid deserts brought about by the hegemonists in our country and everywhere else they have imposed their overlordship.

Our deprived masses, those who commence the new year with material deprivation but who in their heart of hearts nurture a hope, a great hope that these deprivations will come to an end, let them know that my heart is with them, my thoughts are with their day-to-day business and my endeavors and efforts are devoted to them, so that by the will of God almighty, these deprivations might come to an end in the new year.

But in order to enable us to surmount the difficulties, to end the deprivations, a lawful system must be established in our country and every task should be accomplished through the path of law until genuine security and in its wake economic endeavor are made possible.

I hope that all and sundry comprehend this reality and that the inhabitants of the country are ready to commence the new year with rejoicing, to conclude it with even greater rejoicing, and that when we meet next New Year's ay a great many difficulties will have been ended, a great many deprivations will have been wiped out and that the foundations to an ever rejoicing Iran will have been built.

May God almighty graciously grant greater bounty to all in the new year, and may your endeavors and efforts be crowned with great results, God willing.

PRESIDENT BANI-SADR'S ACTIVITIES REPORTED

Meeting With Religious Leaders

LD201824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to the central news unit of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the association of the struggling clergy has issued a statement inviting ulema, hojjat ol-eslams and religious announcers to be present at 0730 on Friday in the Motahhari School of Higher Education, to meet with Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president.

Meeting With Khomeyni

LD201756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to PARS Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of our country, together with a group of ministers and members of the Revolution Council, were received at 1730 today by Imam Khomeyni, great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to convey their New Year's greetings. At the meeting, which took place at the imam's temporary residence in Tehran, Ayatollah Mosavi Ardabili congratulated the imam on the New Year and hoped for the imam's health and long life. The iman thanked them in return.

According to PARS, after this meeting Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of our country together with a number of ministers and members of the Revolution Council, met the imam privately at 1800. Mr Bani-Sadr said after his meeting with the imam: Imam Khomeyni expressed the hope that during the next year our problems will be solved, that there will be more cooperation, and that those who are responsible for the affairs of the country will achieve more agreement and cooperation. Mr Bani-Sadr added: We wished the imam a long life.

Answering a question by the PARS reporter on the second round of Majles elections, Bani-Sadr said: In the cities where elections have been conducted correctly and properly, there is no problem. In those cities where the elections have not been conducted properly, the results will be nullified. Mr Bani-Sadr emphasized that the whole elections could not be sacrificed for the sake of a few errors.

OIL DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Oil Well's Yield

Tehran BAMDAD in Persian 14 Mar 80 p 10 WA

[Text] A spokesman of the National Iranian Oil Company has announced that the National Drilling Company of Iran has brought in oil from the first well it discovered on 8 March 1980. This new oil field which has been named Palangan is located 35 kilometers northeast of Dezful.

The No 1 Palangan well was drilled 4,507 meters deep, and tests have been made showing that its upper reservoir contains relatively light oil of 32.5 degrees (A.P.I.) and has an output of 4,500 barrels a day. Tests made on various levels indicate that its probable reserves are at least forty million barrels. It is hoped that continued drilling to the maximum depth will reveal larger estimates of oil possibilities in this region. It is necessary to explain that all the drilling operations at this well were conducted under the supervision of Iranian engineers, experts, and workers.

Afghans To Control Oil Routes

JN201847 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Reliable sources in India have stated that Soviet Army officers are bent on arming and training the Baluchi tribes in southeastern Afghanistan in order to strengthen Soviet control over the routes to the oil region in the Persian Gulf.

The sources added that the Soviets have positioned a division of 3,000-4,000 Baluchis in south eastern Afghanistan. The sources stated that the arming of the Baluchis at present is considered an attempt to support the Soviet Union's onslaught against the Afghan Muslim fighters.

APPOINTMENT OF GENDARMERIE COMMANDER REPORTED

LD201623 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Mar 80 p 10 LD

[Unattributed report: "New Gendarmerie Commander"]

[Text] General Tahernezhat has been appointed commander of the gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the acting Interior Minister Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani.

OFFICIAL CLOCK TO GO FORWARD 21 MARCH

LD201750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The country's official clock will be put forward at midnight tonight. Consequently, at 0000 [2030 GMT] the time will be announced as 0100.

ARRESTS IN TEHRAN, RELEASES IN KERMANSHAH REPORTED

Arrest of Shirazi, Collaborators

LD201244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Ebrahim Shirazi, the chief architect of the most inhuman plots during the oppressive years of 1966-1968, has been arrested by security officials. As part of his plans, he used to draw derogatory cartoons in order to malign various personalities, in that way forcing them to keep silent or cooperate with the defunct SAVAK. The representative of the Islamic revolution prosecutor said: He was arrested at 1130 this morning in Tehran.

According to the same report, after the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ebrahim Shirazi had certain contacts with Shahpur Bakhtiar which have been discovered. Some documents concerning this have been taken from him. They will be brought to the attention of the public later. Ebrahim Shirazi's collaborators in these inhuman activities have also been identified.

Amnesty for 11 Prisoners

LD201242 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] To mark the occasion of the Iranian New Year, 11 prisoners were released from Dizelabad Prison in Kermanshah today. Announcing this, the governor of Kermanshah's Dizelabad Prison told a PARS correspondent: These people, who were sentenced to short terms of imprisonment, were pardoned and released by the order of the Shari'ah judge. He added: In accordance with the Imam Khomeyni's general amnesty decree and taking cognizance of the contents of the circular issued by the public prosecutor general of the Islamic Revolution Court, the dossiers and the lists of the prisoners who have been imprisoned in connection with the Islamic revolution have been investigated and will now be sent to Tehran so that these people can be released from jail once approval has been obtained, and the same information was communicated to us.

SITUATION IN KORDESTAN REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Release of Mahabad Hostages

LD201754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1727 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Excerpt] According to PARS NEWS AGENCY, with the arrival of the new year today and following steps taken by a special mission, 20 hostages involved in the Kordestan troubles have been released in Mahabad.

On the basis of the same report, the hostages were released at the Mahabad garrison in the presence of the representative of the special mission, the commander of the Mahabad garrison and the representatives of Mahabad political groups.

Interview With Kurdish Deputy

LD201203 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Mar 80 p 2 LD

[Unnamed KEYHAN correspondent report: "Four Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) Representatives Win Seats in the Majles"]

[Text] Kermanshah--In the course of a KEYHAN interview Ghani Bolurian member of the KDP Central Committee member and National Consultative Assembly deputy elect for Mahabad, gave his views on the election.

Discussing the election of the KDP candidates he said: "If our representatives are not accepted by the interior minister, this will constitute a problem for both the government and the people who voted for their representatives."

Concerning the number of deputies, he said: "At present, the party has representatives from Piranshahr, Mahabad, Bukan and Takab with Shaindezh. We were also in the majority in Saqqez and Baneh. Party representatives have also reached the second stage of the election in Urumiyeh and are in the majority, but representatives from that city have not been accepted.

"There has not yet been any instruction from the Interior Ministry indicating acceptance of the KDP deputies. However, an Interior Ministry representative was present in Mahabad and he supervised the elections directly; in a discussion I had with him he said that he was quite satisfied with the election in the city and that he was glad to have been in charge of supervising them. He also said that he considered the election there to have been among the most democratic."

On the subject of the dissolution of the KDP, and what connection this had with the election of deputies from the party, Bolurian said: "We discussed this matter in Tehran with the president and with Daryush Foruhar, and the president said that, provided we accepted the person of the leader and the Islamic revolution, there was no reason for the party to dissolve, and we could take part in the election."

Yazdi on Elections, U.S.

LD201746 Budapest MTI in English 1705 GMT 20 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Budapest, March 20 (MTI)--MTI's special correspondent Istvan Ambrus reports from Tehran:

The atmosphere in Kordestan is reported to remain extremely tense. The Tehran authorities have put off the National Assembly elections in the centre of Sanandaj and in six additional mainly Kurd-dominated towns until 'order is restored', that is, for an unlimited period of time.

The top-ranking official in charge of ethnic minority issues today is former Foreign Minister Ibrahim Yazdi, the personal emissary of Ayatollah Khomeyni. He said in an interview with MTI that in his view the postponement of the elections was a 'forward-looking and reasonable move, for the population took hold of vast masses of arms and the left-wing groups are causing tremendous trouble'. To the question whom he terms as leftists, Yazdi replied: The left-wing in Kordestan is so extensive and consists of so many groups that even a mere categorization of them presents a problem to the central government.

The former foreign minister thinks Iran should abandon the foreign political line which [words indistinct] in the country's isolation. 'We have to build our relations with every state of the world, the United States included, on the basis of mutual respect and mutually advantageous cooperation,' he said.

In the latter context, however, extradition of the deposed shah is indispensable. True, there is no extradition agreement in effect between Iran and Panama, 'but the Panamanian laws have no provision either which excludes outright the possibility of passing back the shah. Settlement of the problem is up to the Panamanian Government, more precisely when it feels like it would pay to make a favour to the United States,' he said.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Afghanistan Situation, Karmal Interview

LD191109 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 12 Mar 80 p 16 LD

[ETTELA'AT correspondent Mansur Taraji Kabul dispatch: "A Million People Killed in Afghanistan"--first four paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] Despite all the obstacles to the entry of foreign correspondents into Kabul, ETTELA'AT correspondent Dr Mansur Taraji has succeeded in entering the Afghan capital. He is the first noncommunist newsman to see for himself the latest conditions in Afghanistan and the deployment of Soviet forces.

Visa applications from hundreds of U.S. and European newsmen have so far been rejected, while several individuals who have succeeded in landing at Kabul airport have been detained there and subsequently expelled from the country. All news of the situation inside the country so far dispatched by the international press agencies to the outside world has been obtained from correspondents and travelers arriving in New Delhi or Islamabad.

Mansur Taraji has not only managed to furnish firsthand reports on conditions inside Afghanistan, he has also interviewed many of the country's leaders, including Babrak Karmal and Gen 'Abdol Qader. It is hoped that these reports will clarify the true conditions in and problems of Afghanistan, and reveal new facts.

Mansur Taraji arrived in Kabul during the first days of the bloody incidents of 3 Esfand [22 February] but, because of a breakdown in communications between Kabul and Tehran, he was unable to file his dispatches.

Kabul--In an exclusive interview with the leader of Afghanistan's party and new government Babrak Karmal revealed to me new disclosures on the execution of Hafizollah Amin, the entry of Soviet forces into the country and present conditions inside Afghanistan.

During contacts I established with many of today's Afghan leaders, and interviews with the present government's opponents, everyone confirmed that over the past year more than 1 million people had been killed. There is scarcely a family that has not lost someone. In the dungeons of the Pol-e Charkhi Prison, 20 kilometers from Kabul, 2,000 Babrak Karmal supporters [Parchamis, belonging to pro-Karmal faction of old Communist Party of Afghanistan] were tortured to death; 20,000 members of the Muslim brotherhood, Shi'ites, Sunnis, communists or anyone in whose house or pocket a picture of the Imam Khomeyni was found were put to death.

Hundreds of Shi'ite prayer houses [tekiyeh] and mosques are bereft of their preachers and Friday prayer leaders, all of them having been consigned to the firing squads in the slaughterhouse created by Hafizollah Amin.

Today only the Sunnis hold the Friday congregational prayers at the mosques since, unlike the Shi'ites, who must have a [qualified] prayer leader, the Sunnis may make their responses with any believer leading them in prayer. Not a single Shi'ite prayer leader has been left alive.

In the heart of Kabul, near the Pol-e Kheshti Mosque, when several people realized that I was an Iranian they surrounded me; I suddenly saw hundreds of people around me, and as someone from the country of which Imam Khomeyni was the leader, I was warmly welcomed and feted.

During 18 months of slaughter under the rule of Nur Mohammad Taraki and Hafizollah Amin, an amazing unity has been forged between Sunnis and Shi'ites, and today millions of Afghans are full of praise for the Imam Khomeyni, whose devotees they consider themselves to be. They believe that Hafizollah Amin was an even greater criminal than Genghiz Khan and a more ruthless executioner than Adolf Eichmann. One Parchami introduced me to [what was left of] his family; 11 members of the family had been shot all at once by the agents of Hafizollah Amin.

Several tradesmen in the Kheyr-Khane area took me to a quarter of the city where agents of Hafizollah Amin had in a single day bulldozed 1,000 Hezaris (Kabul Shi'ites) into a great pit, burying them alive. The Khalqs [supporters of pro-Amin faction of old CP of Afghanistan] had one night shot 400 university students at the Polycon (on the outskirts of Kabul). As explained to me, the catastrophe which took place under Hafizollah Amin was even more brutal and bloodthirsty than the ovens which burned human beings at Auschwitz.

Desire for Departure of Soviets

I met hundreds of Parchami communists and Muslim Brotherhood members who had come back alive from the awful tortures of Amin, I saw Gen 'Abdol Qader, the man who led the coup against [former President Mohammad] Daud Khan, ('Abdol Qader is today a member of the ruling Revolutionary Council. He showed me his hands and body, crippled in a dark cell in Pol-e Charkhi during Amin's rule.

Dr Najib, former Afghan ambassador in Iran, who fled during Amin's rule and is today head of the services and information organization of Afghanistan [title as published], said: "We have found documents which show that Hafizollah Amin was a CIA agent and his aim was to foster among the Afghan people hatred for socialism and the Soviet Union. All the communists who opposed Amin's extremist methods were either killed or imprisoned. Those who today have come to power in the Government of Afghanistan or the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] are those who fled during Amin's time. And there are Pakistanis who were released from Amin's prison following the 6 day [27 December] revolution."

If Hafizollah Amin's aim was to make the people of Afghanistan hate communistm it must be said that he completely succeeded in doing this. Today 80 percent of the Afghan people entertain reservations about the government of Babrak Karmal, who has always been an opponent of Hafizollah Amin, and they find it difficult to accept the presence of Soviet forces in this country--although this did facilitate the downfall of Amin's regime--and most people want to see the rapid exit of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Kabul airport is ringed with tanks, armored vehicles and anti-aircraft guns, and Kabul itself looks more like a military base than a city of 800.000 [as published] people. There are Afghan [Army] tanks in position in most of the streets and thousands of revolution guardsmen armed with Kalashnikovs guard offices and the premises of public organizations. Soviet tanks are less in evidence in the city but all important ministry buildings are guarded inside by Soviet troops.

Detention of Two Opposition Leaders

An official Afghanistan Government spokesman revealed to me that Afghan security forces had succeeded in detaining two important opposition leaders well known to the Afghan people and that no one as yet knew of their detention. They are Mohammad Kalkani and 'Aref 'Alemyar. It was Mohammad Kalkani who was responsible for organizing the 3 Esfand disturbances in Kabul. He is a Maoist and one of the leaders of the opposition to the Kabul government. In the past, 'Aref 'Alemyar was chief of public transportation and his nickname was 'Aref Jeydu. The arrest of these two has been declared a great victory of the Afghan security forces.

The first step taken by the new Afghan Government was the disbandment of the KAM organization (Afghanistan's SAVAK) which Amin's nephew, Asadollah Amin, administered, and thousands of political prisoners were released. However, 95 ministers and influential agents of the main regime were imprisoned in their place. All the efforts of the Babrak Karmal government are directed toward gaining the public's confidence by establishing a free and democratic government, particularly in the sphere of religion.

In a change from past practice Imam Khomeyni's photograph appears in the Afghan press, and his discourses are broadcast on radio and television, while Imam Khomeyni's uprising has become the slogan of the day and of the Babrak Karmal government.

My interview with Babrak Karmal took place at the People's Palace, now the headquarters of the Revolution Council comprising several people. It was in one such palace that the former leader of the party and the Afghan Government, Nur Mohammad Taraki, was smothered with a pillow.

At Babrak Karmal's Headquarters

The Revolution Council headquarters are guarded by Afghan and Soviet troops, both of whom are stationed at the building's entrances. Two Soviet soldiers are on guard, but inside the palace the officers and troops are Afghans. Babrak Karmal claims: "I am staying here at the moment for security reasons, because of security problems, but I would really prefer a house like Imam Khomeyni's in Qom to this palace."

He is 52 years old and has four children. He is a law graduate and was once a teacher and a member of staff at the Afghanistan planning organization, living a modest life. The present leader of Afghanistan inherited a semifeudal country, which was half at war, with a devastated economy and agriculture and a population that had been angered by Amin's regime, the effect of his crimes in the slaughterhouse called Afghanistan being clearly in evidence. Every Afghan face shows hatred and anger, and although a democratic regime has been proclaimed, the people have not made their peace with the Babrak Karmal regime, in spite of the fact that Babrak Karmal was one of those who mobilized the people against the Amin regime. In the face of such conditions, what are the primary aims of the new government and how can Karmal win over and gain the affection of a people which has been so sorely tried in the past?

In reply to my question concerning the urgent steps taken by the Afghan Government to remedy the destruction of the past, Babrak Karmal told me of the aim of the present Afghan Government: "The program of the PDPA is the procurement of democratic freedoms for the people of Afghanistan.

Our revolution is not a socialist one. We are not out for a socialist regime. Afghanistan is a semifeudal country; 90 percent of the people are illiterate; we Afghans are Muslims, and this is one of the things we are proud of. When we talk of national independence, people's freedom, democracy, social program and economic independence--these are not just slogans. It is our aim to attain them, and we will spare no effort to do this."

In reply to a question, Babrak Karmal stated frankly: "Not only are we not confiscating people's property and assets, we are giving back what the past regime took from the people. Shopkeepers, merchants, artisans may pursue their occupations in security, since our regime is not socialist, unlike the past regime, which proclaimed that it was socialist and forced a spurious form of socialism down the throats of the people."

Freedom of Parties

Babrak Karmal spoke beautifully in Farsi-Dari. For some moments I thought I was speaking to an Iranian. His style was simple and flawless. Of the 119 persons appointed to high government office over the last month, 39 are not members of a political party. These include Ravan Farhadi, who is adviser to the foreign minister of Afghanistan and who spent some time in Iran. Three ministers in the Afghan Government are not party members. The security [as published] regime was a party regime. Therefore the government has declared its opposition to the present regime being a regime of one party.

Babrak Karmal declared in the interview, for the first time: "All democratic and patriotic parties may freely engage in activity in Afghanistan. We oppose a one-party system. Islamic parties which follow the line of the uprising of Imam Khomeyni may engage freely in activity in Afghanistan. It is only parties which are in contact with local and foreign agents of reaction that will not be permitted to function."

Babrak Karmal thus confirmed that the new regime in Afghanistan has chosen a multiparty system.

[Question] There are currently three newspapers publishing in Kabul: HAIWAD, ANIS and HAQIQAT-E ENGELAB-E SAWR. Will the new government allow other newspapers to be published by the private sector.

[Answer] Why not? Provided that he is patriotic and has no contact with foreigners, anyone may apply successfully for permission to publish. [answer ends]

During the two-and-a-half hours that Babrak Karmal spoke about the current problems of Afghanistan and the world he referred to Imam Khomeyni a score of times as the greatest leader the world has seen since the dawn of Islam.

[Karmal] "In its way, the great revolution of the Iranian people under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni is an antidictatorship and anti-imperialist revolution, which is something that no honest person, no deprived and progressive Muslim can deny. Over the past 2 years both Iran and Afghanistan have succeeded in putting an end to repressive dictatorships and can today help each other in every way."

How does Babrak Karmal view Islamic government, the Islamic uprising in Iran, and of freedom for religious activity in Afghanistan?

[Karmal] "Afghans are particularly proud of the holy religion of Islam, and claim to be the most devout Muslims in the world. The Afghan people's masses, both Shi'a and Sunni, will defend their religious beliefs with all their being. It was under Amin that various blows were struck at believers in God. His belief was that of the English, 'divide and rule.' The first act of the new Afghan Government as regards the Imam Khomeyni uprising was the letter which I sent him.

"The first duty of a government which claims to be democratic and to serve the people is respect for the religious views, culture and traditions of the people."

Babrak Karmal added: "In a word, I would say that the program of the PDPA is based on democratic, revolutionary, antifeudalist and anti-imperialist principles--that is to say, the selfsame principles proclaimed in the Islamic Republic of Iran."

As regards the economic program of the new Afghan Government, Babrak Karmal said: "Political and economic independence are inseparable. Afghanistan must be self-reliant economically. We seek economic cooperation with all countries of the world. We praise French policy, which has not yielded to American political maneuver and has not followed America's antipopular and imperialist policy over Afghanistan, unlike that of England and Germany.

"There is no way open to Afghanistan except to strengthen its agriculture and to industrialize rapidly."

Regarding the entry of Soviet forces into Afghanistan--when and at the request of which Afghan Government did it take place?

Certain Afghan sources take the view that there were two main reasons for the dispatch of Soviet forces into Afghanistan: A) The people's extreme abhorrence for the Amin regime and their desire to see his regime overthrown; B) The likelihood that Pakistani troops would enter Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union believed that, in view of their assistance to the Afghan people in securing the ouster of Amin, it would be welcomed as a liberating army, though this has not happened.

There is much evidence pointing to the likelihood of U.S. or Pakistani troops entering Afghanistan since, 1 week before his downfall, Amin invited President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan [presumably to visit Afghanistan]. President Ziaul Haq sent [Foreign Ministry adviser] Agha Shahi to Kabul by airplane but, because of a malfunction, he was unable to land at Kabul airport. Agha Shahi should have arrived at Kabul 8 Dey [29 December] (2 days after the fall of Amin). Gulbiddin Hikmatyar, who today is a leader of the antigovernment opposition, was to have been appointed prime minister of Amin's government.

"The Pakistan Government recently announced officially that it had recommended that America send troops into Afghanistan." [Quotation marks as published] It has now been disclosed that at the time Amin's government was in touch with the Pakistan Government with a request for speedy assistance, Soviet forces were in position in Mazar-i Sharif in north Afghanistan, and if Pakistani forces had entered Afghanistan with America [as published], they would undoubtedly have come up against Soviet forces and the Afghan crisis would have been transformed into a world war or at least a great international crisis. Certain Western governments, such as France, knew what was happening and, for this reason, did not support America and Pakistan.

In reply to my question Babrak Karmal revealed for the first time that, some 20 days before Amin's ouster, Soviet forces had entered Afghanistan by virtue of the 1978 treaty signed in Moscow when Taraki was in power. During Nur Mohammad Taraki's rule the Afghan Revolutionary Council requested that the Soviet Union send troops into the country on 14 different occasions, but the Soviet Union refused. Following the total victory of the Iranian Revolution local reactionary forces aiding U.S. imperialism, which had lost its Iranian base, endeavored to transform Afghanistan into a new base for America in the region. For this reason there was an increase in attacks by opposition forces on Afghan forces, particularly in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border provinces.

At this point the Afghan Revolutionary Council and the PDPA Central Committee put pressure on Amin to persuade the Soviet Union, by whatever means necessary, to send in its forces. Again the Soviet Union opposed this move, and conferred with America and Pakistan to see if the Afghanistan issue could be resolved politically. The Soviet effort failed, however, and the opposition forces' attacks on Afghan provinces increased. Amin was cooperating secretly with America while outwardly he adopted a friendly attitude toward the Soviet Union in his dealings with the Revolutionary Council. Finally the PDPA Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council themselves requested help from the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Government, which realized that Pakistani forces could soon enter Afghanistan with America, was compelled to agree to the request from the leaders of the Afghan party and government. Amin, meanwhile, proved to be in the minority and his scheme was brought to light. He was tried by a revolutionary court and executed.

Message From Haq on Now Ruz

JN201642 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 80 JN

["Text" of message from Pakistani President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq to Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the Now Ruz festivities--date not given]

[Text] His Excellency Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran: I send you and the friendly Iranian people, in my name and on behalf of the Pakistani Government and people, our most sincere and heartfelt wishes on the occasion of the start of the happy Now Ruz festival.

The Islamic Revolution of Iran has been one of the historic events to take place recently. The Pakistani people heartily welcomed this revolution. I can reassure Your Excellency of Pakistan's complete and comprehensive support for Iran.

I wish you long life and the Iranian people progress and prosperity.

Congratulations From India

JN201644 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 80 JN

[Text] Iranian President Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has received a cable of congratulations from Indian President Neelam Sanjiva Reddy on the occasion of the Iranian New Year.

The cable said: It pleases me to send you and the Iranian people our true greetings and wishes on the occasion of the Now Ruz festival. I hope that principles of solidarity and amity will strengthen between the two states in order to enhance beneficial cooperation between the two peoples, the Iranian and the Indian.

I seize the occasion to express my wishes for your good health, happiness and prosperity and happy times for the Iranian people.

Commentary Critical of France

JN211010 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0710 GMT 21 Mar 80 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] A weak regime is that which fears any voice. A weak regime is one which also fears any popular move. We challenge every oppressive regime to hold free elections. We also challenge any amir or minister of any member of a despotic regime to nominate themselves. If any amir or minister and a prisoner both have equal chance to run for election, who would the people elect? Would the people elect the despot or that prisoner? We elect prisoners because they are the real persons who can express the people's conscience. Therefore, the weak regime is that which fears the popular move, democracy, elections and referendums.

Let the people choose the regime they like. Would they choose an agent regime of Britain, the United States or France? Or would they choose the rule of the Koran, the rule of the one God? We say in challenge to the rulers: Let the people choose. Would they elect Imam Khomeyni as their ruler? Or would they elect the present rulers? If you are really sincere men, give freedom to the people to talk. If you are really strong, do not throw people in prisons and do not silence the people.

Imam Khomeyni's regime is strong because it expresses the people's conscience and because it enjoys the people's support. Let others fabricate problems and foment disturbances but [words indistinct]. Thousands of arms have been infiltrated into Iran. Millions of dinars have been distributed here. But the regime is strong. Even the United States failed to find a gap through which to infiltrate this strong regime because it expresses the people's conscience.

This regime has dealt a severe blow to U.S. imperialism. Although the United States can frighten the Soviet Union and can destroy the entire world, it cannot harm Iran, because the regime here enjoys the absolute support of the people. If any foreign intervention, even much smaller than that taking place against Iran, took place against any other country, that country would collapse. This is because that country does not enjoy the people's support.

Despots are now asking France, the United States and Britain to help them. They tell them: Take our countries and everything you want, but save our heads and regimes. These despots are aware that their heads will be chopped off because they are thieves. That is why they are asking the big thieves to help them. Now it is France. They are asking France to send intelligence agents and policemen and to give them arms. Why? To defend the oppressors' rule. Why France today? Did you ever ask why France and why the exchange of visits? France is now Britain and the United States. The United States has been categorically rejected by the people. Even the ruler who brings in U.S. forces and planes says daily in the newspapers and magazines that he does not want U.S. bases in his country and that there is not a single U.S. base in his country. Why? ecause he himself is ashamed to ask the United States to come for help. [words indistinct]

Brzezinski knows well that the people do not like him. Even those who meet with Brzezinski say: We do not listen to him. Even those who receive U.S. planes say: We do not have U.S. planes or bases in our country. [word indistinct] the United States is well aware that it is rejected everywhere. The United States knows that any place it goes it leaves destruction.

As far as Britain is concerned, it is still remembered for its thefts, oppression and robberies. These memories are still fresh in all minds. Thus, the despots discover France, the new alliance. This is because France does not have the ugly face here even though its hands are stained with the blood of 1 million Algerian martyrs.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN DISCUSSES ECONOMY, IMPERIALISM, NOW RUZ

Economy Improvement; U.S. Military Moves

TA191609 [Editorial Report TA] Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on March 18 broadcast two commentaries. The first, entitled "Let Us Strive for the (?Improvement) of the Economy," says: On the threshold of the new year. People are more confronted with food shortages. But a nation that was able to overthrow a bloodthirsty regime such as the former one will be able to cope with such problems. To repair all the damage done to the Iranian economy by the former regime, all the struggling people of Iran face a number of serious duties. The bankrupt, dependent economy must be saved from its present situation. The big feudal landlords plundered the country's wealth and like their master, the ousted shah, fled the country. The economic blockade imposed by the West has increased the economic problems of Iran because of its great economic dependence on the West.

To remedy this sad situation, some constructive measures, such as putting an end to economic dependence on imperialist countries or nationalizing the wealth of the landlords and putting it at the disposal of the government and the masses, should be taken. It must not be forgotten that British and U.S. imperialism are trying to take advantage of the deficiencies of the Iranian economy. The main thing is preserving the revolutionary gains and thwarting the plots of bloodthirsty U.S. imperialism.

The second, entitled "The Allies of U.S. Imperialism in the Region," says: As we all know, six more U.S. warships have been dispatched to the Indian Ocean and will join those already stationed near Iranian territorial waters. Pentagon officials declared that the 1800 Marines sent along with the warships will be stationed at the U.S. military base in Oman. So the U.S. Government, in collusion with elements the likes of Ziaul Haq and As-Sadat, is conspiring against Iran.

The same way it made the 28 Amordad coup d'etat in Iran, the United States has overthrown the legal government of Bhutto, and imposed General Ziaul Haq on the people of Pakistan. So, to show his appreciation for the United States after the victory of the Iranian Revolution, Ziaul Haq has put all his resources at the disposal of the United States, especially after the revolutionary and democratic events in Afghanistan. The Iranian nation must be on guard against the plots of the Pakistan Government, which is carrying out the plans of the United States under the cloak of defending Islam.

Another foe of the Iranian nation is Sultan Qabus of Oman, who has put himself completely at the disposal of imperialism. In order to safeguard his throne, the sultan has turned the territory of Oman into a U.S. military base against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is a well known fact that if the former shah had not dispatched troops to Oman, it would have been liberated from the lackey of imperialism. All the U.S. troops stationed in Oman are ready to defend the United State's oil interests in the area.

All the Ziaul Haqs and As-Sadats or the Sultan Qabus, in collaboration with U.S. imperialism and under the cloak of defending Islam, are hatching plots, which threaten all the oil producing countries of the area, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Iranian public must be prepared and mobilized for the struggle against this danger.

The United States has declared that the Persian Gulf area is of vital interest to that country. The Americans have not learned from the past and still resort to the law of the jungle, not taking into consideration that times have changed in favor of the freedom-seeking movements of the region, especially after the victory of the Iranian Revolution. But the United States is striving to change the present situation. So all the countries of the region should liberate their people from U.S. imperialist hegemonists.

Commentaries on New Year

TA201928 [Editorial Report TA] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on March broadcast two commentaries. The first says: Now Ruz (New Year) is here. This is the second new year celebrated by a liberated nation. The new year is an inspiration in the struggle for the liberty of the Iranian nation. The former corrupt regime no longer exists, from its ashes rose the Islamic Republic of Iran. For more than two decades the National Voice of Iran encouraged the heroic nation of Iran to struggle for its liberty against the former corrupt regime. Now Ruz is the spirit of the Iranian nation's unreconciliable struggle against oppression and slavery. The heroic martyrs of the Iranian nation will be remembered eternally. The workers of the National Voice of Iran send their warmest greetings to the glorious leader of the Iranian nation on the occasion of the new year.

The second, says: Tonight the Iranian nation will celebrate the second liberated new year. In spite of all the hardships the heroic Iranian nation endured during the former shah's cruel regime, it has emerged victorious. The new year brings hope for a brighter future. The new year is a torch and inspiration for the brave Iranian nation. It is the millions of Iranian toilers who have made possible the celebration of this second liberated new year. These toilers gave thousands of martyrs. So they have a number of just expectations from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Greetings to the great imam and the true followers of the imam's path.

DELEGATE TO ESCAP CONFERENCE COMMENTS ON SANCTIONS, OIL PRICES

For the AFP account of the Iranian delegate's March 21 statement to the UN ESCAP Conference in Bangkok see the International Affairs section of the 21 March Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

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